# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1084
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
DEFORESTATION ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY -2
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether indiscriminate deforestation during the last three years has caused extensive damage to the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of trees had to be cut for widening of National Highway-2 causing damage to the environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any alternative scheme has been formulated for compensating the damage;

(f) if so, the details indicating the funds proposed to be spent for this purpose;

(g) whether the help of any Governmental/Non-Governmental Organization is likely to be sought for execution of said scheme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) There is no report with the Central Government that indiscriminate deforestation has taken place during the last three years. According to the 'State of Forest Report 1999' by the Forest Survey of India, there has been a net increase of 3,896 sq.km from 1997 to 1999 in the forest cover of the country.

(c) to(h) Proposals for diversion of forest land affecting about 173000 trees have been approved for the widening of the National Highway-2 under the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The approvals are subject to the condition that twice the number of trees felled are planted by the State Forest Departments as compensatory afforestation, the funds for which are to be provided by the user agency. Around Rs.19,34,14,750.00 have been deposited for the purpose by the National Highways Authority of India with the concerned State Forest Departments.